

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Emily Brown, Lori Cantelo, BJ Jackman, Ron Rowe, Peter Tsementzis, Bill Drikos, Verne Higgs, and Pam Muma

Absent: Richard Bootsvelde

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm EDT by Bert Blackburn via Zoom conference call.

1. Election of Board Officers

Secretary/Treasurer – Bert Blackburn nominated Pam Muma for Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by B J Jackman. No other nominations brought forward. All were in favor Pam accepted the position

President – Pam nominated Bert for President and seconded by Bill Drikos. No other nominations brought forward. All were in favor and Bert accepted the position.

Vice President – B J nominated Lori for Vice President and seconded by Ron Rowe. No other nominations brought forward. All were in favor and Lori accepted the position.

Bert asked Emily Brown if she still wanted to continue looking after Website, Facebook, New Shooter and Ontario Council of Shooters. Emily agreed to continue with these programs. Lori Cantelo let Emily know if she needed any help or would like to delegate anything to let us all know as we would all be willing to help out.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

August 4, 2020 – B J made a motion to accepted August 4th Board of Directors meeting minutes which was seconded by Bill. All in favor, minutes accepted.

August 11, 2020 – Lori made a motion to accepted August 11th Board of Directors meeting minutes which was seconded by Ron. All in favor, minutes accepted.

Annual General Membership Meeting – Lori made a motion to accept the AGM minutes which was seconded by Emily. All in favor, minutes accepted.

3. Business arising from minutes

1. Results of Membership Vote – Bert reviewed the results from the membership vote with 85 members voting and 1 spoiled vote. The change in the Provincial host club to have St Thomas change to odd years and Hamilton to even years was very strongly agreed. Verne Higgs was very strongly voted in for the open 1 year team to the Board of Director position and the change to the target requirements for the All Star team was also very strongly agreed to.

2. Website/Facebook/Twitter – see Appendix A

3. Ontario Council of Shooters – see Appendix A
 4. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – See Appendix A
 5. ATA Rebate – In the past years the OPTA would receive approximately \$3,000.00 membership rebate from the ATA but with us not hosting our Provincial Championships we would not be eligible for this rebate. The ATA sent a notice that the Association could request an ATA donation, equivalent to the rebate we would have received. This request would not be acceptable if stated for Covid-19 reasons only. Bert wrote a letter (see Appendix B) to justify the OPTA's reason for not hosting the Championships and this letter was sent to the ATA. There was a deadline of December 1st to get the request sent in.
4. Monthly finances
 1. YTD Financial Results – Financial reports as submitted by Pam were briefly reviewed. Nothing unusual to note this month. The grant monies from Ontario Council of Shooters has been received and deposited into the bank.
All trophies except the HOA and HAA trophies have been received and paid.
5. New business
 1. Trophy Committee – Bert asked if Lori and B J would continue on this committee. He stated that because of the pandemic, 90% of the task is done. Both agreed to continue on the committee for the 2021 trophy package. Pam will contact the ATA to find out what if anything we are to do with the 2020 ATA trophy package we have.
 2. Suggested future agenda items –
 - i. Sponsorship monies- application process, standard trophy package instead of money.
 - ii. Lottery fund- some suggestion discussed in the past year include;
 - doubles program for new shooters
 - running clinics for young shooters
 - paying cost of youth targets at the Provincial championships.
 3. Eastern Zone – B J brought forward what the Board thought about suggesting the Eastern Zone be held by satellite as the Central Zone does now. This is not necessarily due to the thought of the border still be closed for travelling but for all Eastern Zones in the future. Discussion regarding if this would increase attendance for Ontario shooters but also would this open the door to other Eastern Zone provinces and states to request the same. Bert asked Verne if he would like to work on this and he agreed. Pete said he would be glad to work with Verne on this project.
 4. Provincial Championship shoot date – Verne brought forward a suggestion that the Board look at changing the date of the Provincial championships. With the Eastern Zone, the Provincial Championships and the Grand all shooting so close together it is

very difficult for shooters to attend these shoots. In the past the Provincial championships were always held before the Canadian championships.

5. Emily suggested the OPTA and clubs possible look at hosting shooting clinics that would help new shooters to the sport to understand types of appropriate guns to use for trap, gun fit, types of shells to use, proper etiquette etc. Perhaps hosting some kind of clinics in the spring would possible get new shooters ready to go out to try registered shoots. Also many people are afraid to join the OPTA and registered shooting because of the competition aspect. Many people are unaware of the classification system which provides a chance for all shooters, not just the top shooters.
6. Next meeting – Monday November 9th at 7:30 via Zoom.
7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm EDT.

Appendix A – Emily's Board Report

OPTA Board report for October 13, 2020

Submitted by Emily Brown

This report represents updates since August 4, 2020

1. OPTA website

The buy and sell page has been very active with 26 new items posted, and 22 sold, and 9 edits. There are currently 66 posts on the buy and sell page. Firearms are selling quickly, in all price ranges, as well as accessories such as shooting glasses, bags, stocks, and triggers.

Updates to the website include ATA delegate articles, financial statements, and winter recreational league schedules.

2. OPTA Facebook group page/Twitter

The number of members of the OPTA Facebook group page has risen from 987 to 1024, an increase of 37 new members. After my welcome message to these new approved members offering to answer any questions or help, a few have asked me to meet them to make club introductions. These shooters have been primarily from the GTA, so I have arranged to meet them at either Galt or Hamilton. Most have committed to memberships at these ranges. There are currently still 35 people who have asked to join the FB group but I do not admit them until they respond to a very simple screening question about their connection with the sport. Most respond with what club they are at, or that they want to learn more about the sport, or have just started trapshooting.

3. Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS)

The Ontario Council of Shooters has been quiet having postponed its AGM according to health regulations lifting restrictions on timelines for not for profits to hold annual AGMs. Much of the correspondence has been forwarded messaging from the Ministry, or other affiliate shooting organizations. There have been no further discussions re: IPSC joining the council, and I suspect they will be approaching the Ministry to form their own Provincial Sporting Organization (PSO). I recently discovered that biathlon has its own PSO, Biathlon Ontario so there is precedent for it. Biathlon Ontario were just granted \$95,000 to the Eagle Lake Gun Club in Sundridge to upgrade the facility to become one of two high-calibre biathlon training centres in eastern Canada.

4. New Shooter/ OPTA promotions

While I have not hosted any new shooter events, new shooters have been coming out to the clubs in great numbers. For example, we have seen over 100 shooters pre-squad for the Silver Horseshoe winter recreational league for this season, many participating for the first time.

I see a need for a new shooter event which specifically looks at gun suitability, gun fit and patterning. More and more, I see new shooters who have purchased firearms at big box stores where they are given poor advice, or who have purchased a general use shotgun, which they find

they outgrow, or which is less suitable for trap than they had imagined. Ideally this event would be offered to new shooters before they make a purchase. A shotgun manufacturer/importer range day would be something to consider in the spring to introduce new or intermediate shooters to a wider range of trap guns.

5. Canadian University Shooting Federation (CUSF)

The shotgun clinic development committee continues to meet, although we have had to cancel a meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Some university clubs, including Carleton, and Windsor have held events, which seems to be driven primarily by a strong club lead, and keen club mentor coaches, with host club availability.

There was a CUSF Women's Programs launch webinar on October 1, which I was happy to participate in. Women from across Canada attended to learn more about the shooting sports from a sport shooting, hunting and industry

5. Other business

I participated in a Range Day at Galt Sportsmen's Club which allowed me to help with the trap field and to introduce industry folks to the discipline. I was able to promote the OPTA which I hope in turn, will be passed on to customers.

I visited a new gun store and range facility in the Cambridge area, and shared information about the OPTA, leaving some brochures and business cards behind for them to hand out to customers who are interested in taking up clay target sports.

The provincial sporting organization (PSO) cooperative continues to put pressure on and lobby on behalf of all PSOs. They actively inform and clarify the ever evolving public health directives and what they mean to amateur sport, with team and contact sports clearly impacted but also other sports which would seem less likely concerns. Again, the biggest issue which has yet to be resolved is coach and volunteer liability including that of clubs and board members. The Minister acknowledges this at every meeting as an ongoing discussion with the insurance boards in Ontario. There was a Town Hall with the Minister on October 2, and another coming up October 15.

The PSO cooperative met to discuss the status of Sports4Ontario whose main purpose was to provide a fundraising platform for sport not for profits and a mechanism for issuing tax receipts. It was suggested that the PSO cooperative takeover this agency to continue with their operations and to legitimize the cooperative as the voice of all PSOs with the Ministry.

The Commonwealth Games are being proposed for Hamilton for 2026. While the community is divided with respect to the benefits of hosting such an event, if they did come to Hamilton, there is a possibility that the shooting sports may be included.

Appendix B – ATA Rebate Donation Letter

September 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Gipson,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the ATA rebate donation. We were extremely disappointed to have to cancel our Provincial Championships. We typically have more than 200 entries in the singles championships. We have an exceptionally large Province with some residents travelling over 2000 km to participate.

Our championships were scheduled to take place from July 30 to August 3rd. It was impossible to hold them at that time because the Province had restrictions of gatherings to under 50 outdoors and 10 indoors until 2 weeks before the start and no guarantee the restrictions would be lifted. They were rescheduled until September 3rd to 7th, hoping that the restrictions would be removed. The Province finished going into stage 3 in mid August. This allowed outside gathering to 100 and inside to 50. This was still less than half of the numbers that we usually expect but we tried to find a way to make it happen by restricting the number at any one time. In mid September, the restrictions were increased again limiting outside gatherings to 25 and inside to 10. It is obviously impossible to hold a championship under these restrictions.

The Board of the OPTA and the St. Thomas gun club worked hard to make it happen. The gun club had major disagreement on the board about the safety of holding the event as did the OPTA board. In the end, the Board decided we could not proceed even though we had purchased a full trophy package. Even though it was a split decision we stand by our conclusion. Our membership is aging with 49 percent over the age of 60 which puts them in the high-risk category. Most of board falls into this demographic as well.

Here is a link to the Provincial regulations.

https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-stages?_ga=2.197204591.1393859281.1585945196-574796325.1585945196

We look forward to hosting our Provincial Championships again next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Blackburn", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert H Blackburn DVM

OPTA President